



NOAA FISHERIES

2003 Constituent Sessions

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U. S. Recreational Fishery Statistics

- Over 17 million participants
- Over 65 million fishing trips per year
- Over 135 thousand metric tons landed per year
- Economic impact of more than \$30 billion
- Over \$22 billion in related expenditures
- More than 349,000 jobs supported
- Over \$12 billion in related personal incomes

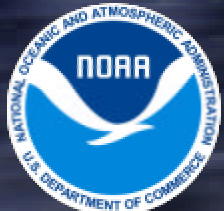
Major Issues Facing NOAA Fisheries

- Science-based information
- Stock assessments
- Reducing bycatch
- Reduce overcapacity and overfishing
- Funding



Ecosystem management

- Future management strategies are aimed at conserving all living marine resources:
 - Fish
 - Habitats
 - Marine mammals
 - Turtles



Value Of Other Marine Resources And Their Habitat

- **Intrinsic value**
- **Value to functioning ecosystem**
- **Recreational Value**
- **Subsistence fishing**

Bycatch Strategy Overview

- *Managing the Nation's Bycatch* – Progress review
- Standardized bycatch reporting methodology
- Regional implementation plans
- Education and outreach
- New international approaches
- New funding requirements



Marine Mammal Protection Act Reauthorization Bill

- Improve Marine Mammal Bycatch Reduction
- Strengthen Harassment Definition
- Increase Enforcement
- Reduce Ship Strikes
- Improve Management of Subsistence Harvests



Endangered Species Act Listing Criteria

Will clarify and expand guidance through development of more analytical criteria for whether or not to list species under the ESA :

“in danger of extinction beyond all or a significant portion of its range” (endangered),

or

likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future (threatened).

1992 Recovery Planning Guidance

Are being revised in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service. It will incorporate and reflect policies and case law subsequent to 1992:

- More guidance on development of recovery efforts for the public, state and other partners.

National Standard 1 Guidelines

- Nearly 7 years of experience
- ANPR noted a number of concerns
 - Revisions while rebuilding underway
 - MSST
 - Overfishing of fishery vs. stock
- May consider rulemaking



An underwater photograph showing a diver in a blue wetsuit and mask, swimming near a large, dark, rocky structure. A bright orange fish is visible in the lower right foreground. The water is clear and blue.

Essential Fish Habitat

Implementation

- Identified and described EFH for 42 FMPs and nearly 1,000 species.
- Produced guidelines through regulation on fulfilling the EFH mandate (January 2002)
- Learned that we still need considerable basic information about species distribution and habitat use.
- High priority issue this year is to complete EFH Environmental Impact Statements for New England, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Pacific, and North Pacific fisheries.

Regulatory Streamlining Project

- To improve performance, efficiency and accountability
- Improve NEPA expertise within the agency
- “Front loading” the regulatory process
- Electronic rulemaking initiatives
- Delegation of ESA Section 7 authority to the regions

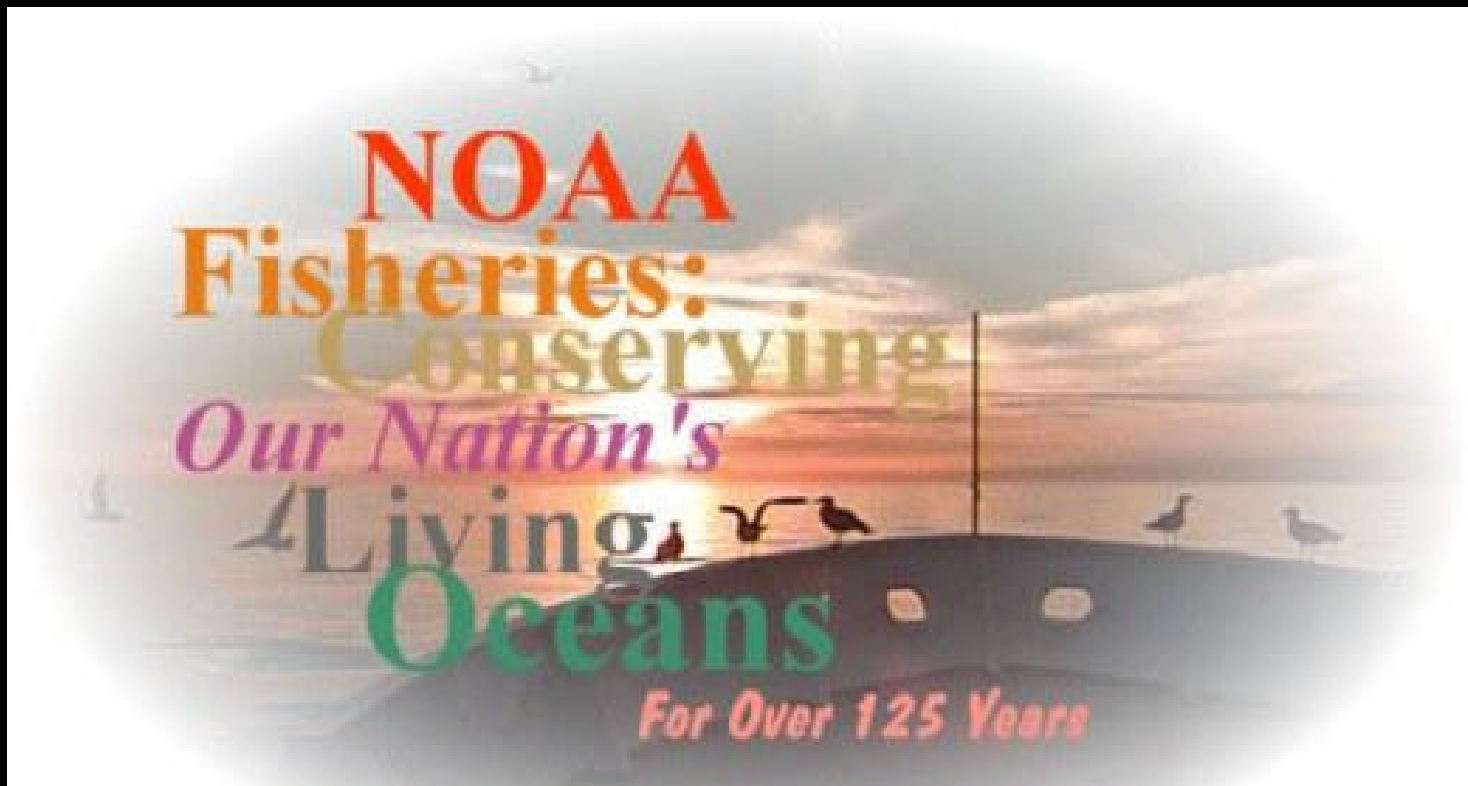


Constituent Services

Public Outreach and Education:

- Improving public and constituent relations
 - MAFAC
 - School/Educational Materials
- Improving communications
 - Constituent database
 - Fish list services
 - Web site design





<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/emeetings>